PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 29th inst., for some improvements in the works at Plymouth citadel; by 1st prox., for the construction of a brick drain about 1,900 feet long, at Portsea; by 2nd, for the erection of a parsonage at Barnard Castle; by 1st, for the erection of a new bridge over the river Leam, at Leamington Priors; by 1st, for cast-iron girders, &c. for a warehouse in re-erection at Bristol; by 28th inst., for the erection of a savings' bank at Howden; by 27th, for the execution of works to highways at Sheffield; by 1st prox., for the re-erection of a warehouse at Bristol; by 29th inst., for alterations and additions to a house at March, Isle of Ely, with offices and stabling; by 25th, for erections of additional offices at the Derby station of the Midland Railway; by a date not specified, for an addition to a Catholic church at Southampton; by 26th inst., for cast-iron water-pipes, branches, and fire-plugs for Southampton Water-works; by 1st prox., for painting, papering, and repairing stations, cottages, &c. on London and Brighton Railway (about 270 in number, in four contracts); by 26th, for asphalting brick platforms at London station of Great Northern Railway; by 26th, for wood-paving at same; by 1st prox., for erection of a rectory-house and offices at Aston Clinton, Bucks; by 2nd, for ten horse-boxes and ten carriage-trucks; and by same date for 100 sets of wrought-iron carriage-wheels and axles, all for Great Northern Railway; by 29th inst., for switches, crossings, chairs, tank, pumping-engine, &c., for Royston and Hitchin Railway; by 26th, for cast-steel files, rasps, rubbers, and ironmongery for East-India Company; by 24th, for building stations and other works at Alnwick and Bilton; by 24th, for erection of a toll-house near Sheffield; and by 6th prox., for erection of a police-station and strong rooms at West Bromwich.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL RESEARCHES.—During the annual meeting of the Bury and Suffolk Archæological Institute, on Thursday in last week, a tumulus at Moulton, near Newmarket, was partially opened, but left by the meeting, who passed on to the Castle-hill, at Cheveley, where excavations showed the site and the stronghold of ditch and vallum. The Church and that of Wood Ditton next engaged attention, with the Devil's Dyke, at its termination, where the ditch and rampart are upwards of 45 feet deep, and at the bottom of which a paper was read on the probable formation of this work. At Newmarket an exhibition of local curiosities was visited, and papers by Mr. A. Way, and Mr. Deck were read, after which the members adjourned to dinner at the Ram Inn, where forty to fifty of them spent the remainder of the day.

NEW AERIAL MACHINE.—Another of those persevering endeavours to acquire such dominion over the air as is already possessed over the ocean, is now being made by a Mr. Bell, who has had a balloon constructed on a new principle, with means of guidance and progression in wind floats appended to the car, which hangs in form of a boat by bands from each pole of the balloon, the latter being oblong laterally, though rounded at the ends, and floating in its length horizontally, or, as it were, sideways, compared with the position of other balloons in the air. We happened to see this machine while on its first voyage across the metropolis, but were not much impressed with confidence in its steadiness of movement. On the contrary, it seemed to sway to and fro in rather a disagreeable way, as if something were wrong. This may have arisen partly from its extremities alternately disappearing from view as it really oscillated in the breeze from side to side: nevertheless, it made way steadily in one uniform direction—whether by the power of the current or that of the paddles and the tail or rudder, we cannot say.

THE LAND SURVEYORS' ASSOCIATION.—The petition adopted by the Surveyors' Association for presentation to Parliament, for protection from interference by the Ordnance in the civil duties of the land surveyors of Great Britain, has been sent to every county in the kingdom, and, from the readiness with which it has been received and signed, it would appear the provincial land surveyors have as much and more to fear than the metropolitan from the encroachments complained of, which have assumed a position of vital importance to a large and respectable profession. The London petition remains for signature at the offices of the Association, 21, University-street, Bedford-square, but by means of a printed copy, with space for signatures, any member of the profession wishing to sign, and living at a distance, may be able to add his name, such copies to be bound up, as vouchers, with the original petition.

ADVANTAGES OF EDUCATION TO MECHANICS.—It has a tendency to exalt the character, and, in some measure, to correct and subdue the taste for gross sensuality. It enables the possessor to beguile his leisure moments (and every man has such) in an innocent, at least, if not in a useful manner. The poor man who can read, and who possesses a taste for reading, can find entertainment at home, without being tempted to repair to the public-house for that purpose. His mind can find employment, where his body is at rest. There is in the mind of such a man an intellectual spring, urging him to the purpose of mental good; and if the minds of his family are also a little cultivated, conversation becomes the more interesting, and the sphere of domestic enjoyment enlarged. The calm satisfaction which books afford puts him into a disposition to relish more exquisitely the tranquil delight of conjugal and parental affection; and as he will be more respectable in the eyes of his family than he who can teach them nothing, he will be naturally induced to cultivate whatever may preserve, and to shun whatever would impair, that respect.—*Robert Hall.*

OLD WALL PAINTING UNCOVERED.—On removing a partition above the screen in Dantsey Church, Wilts, it turned out that the front of the partition was oak board, with laths nailed to it, and plastered. A painting was discovered covering the whole surface, sixteen feet by ten, and in very good preservation, considering its ancient date. It is a rude painting of the Day of Judgment.

BACKS OF LOOKING-GLASSES.—In the upper windows of our best houses in our best streets, the back of the *chamber looking glass* annoys the eye; is there no cabinet-maker that will introduce something more agreeable by the year 1851? A back painted either in grained wood or landscape, to fit nicely in the frame with brass pins, would be better than the present unfinished appearance.—D. E.

COMPETITIONS.—Designs are wanted, as advertised, for shears for lifting masts, boilers, &c. (premium 10*l.*), and for erection of two machines for lifting ballast (premium 10*l.*), both for the Sunderland Dock Company.—— A premium of 20*l.* is also offered by the Burnham Local Board of Health, for the best plan, estimate, and specification for draining the town of Burnham, and supplying it with good water—particulars as advertised.

DRY-ROT IN BUILDINGS.—A communication was made at a late meeting of the Linnæan Society respecting a peculiar form of dry-rot which spread with extreme rapidity in the church of King's Wear, Devonshire, by means of long, byssoid, rope-like shoots, different in the mode of their development, except on a very small scale, from anything which had before come within our notice. A still more curious case, which we are inclined to refer to dry-rot, has lately been sent to us for inspection, reminding us of the mural leprosy of Judæa, attacking, as it does, and more or less destroying, not merely the timber, but the solid walls themselves. It occurred in an old house near Erith, on the banks of the Thames, where it has penetrated into every crevice in and between the walls and woodwork, separating the bricks and mortar, and rendering the whole so friable that the walls must be rebuilt, to prevent their falling down. The mycelium here forms a widely expanded network of threads, which are twisted together in every possible way, so as to form anastomozing strings, of considerable tenacity, as thick as small pack-thread. A strong solution of corrosive sublimate is an effectual cure for such affections, where it is possible to apply it; but where, as in the present instance, the plague infects the whole substance of the structure, destruction seems to be the only remedy. The circumstance of the mycelium penetrating into the mortar and brickwork to such an extent appears to be new, at least we do not recollect to have heard anything of the kind before.—*Gardeners' Chronicle.*

MEDIÆVAL EXHIBITION AT THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.—We are glad to observe that the Society of Arts have reduced the price of admission to the Exhibition of Ancient and Mediæval Art to Threepence. This change has been made by the council of the Society with the view of affording the artisans in the several branches of art-manufacture exhibited an opportunity of inspecting the works of their predecessors. We hope it will be extensively taken advantage of.

NORTHERN METROPOLITAN PARK.—We are glad to observe the stir that is being sustained in attempts to realise the suggestion in THE BUILDER, that a park should be laid out in the northern part of the metropolis. A public meeting is to take place on Friday evening next at Sadlers' Wells Theatre, Lord Robert Grosvenor in the chair, when we hope to find some further steps taken towards carrying out so desirable an object.

NAILERS' STRIKE.—The strike has in a great measure terminated. It has thrown a great deal of trade into the cut and machine nail-makers' hands, but the stock in wrought nails has been considerably reduced. The arrangement with the money-paying masters has been to give the money struck for, for one month, to afford the workmen an opportunity of procuring uniformity of price throughout the trade, and of using their utmost efforts to do away with the truck system.

FOREIGN BRONZES.—Great quantities of continental bronzes are being imported into London. They are exceedingly varied in design and in value. Those not ranked as works of domestic or other use, but as mere works of art, are admitted duty free.

STONEWARE PIPES.—Tenders for providing 2,700 feet of best Glazed Stone Sewer Pipes, 15 inches and 12 inches internal diameter, with all Junction Bends, Syphon Trape, Brick 12-inch Shoots, &c. at Holloway.

Dore	£450	0	0
Garner	373	0	0
Green	367	0	0
Marshall and Co.	360	0	0
Hewes	357	0	0
Barclay	355	0	0
Boyd Smith	349	4	6
Balls	345	0	0
Leek	335	0	0
Batterby	329	0	0
Brown and Maylin	320	0	0
Radley and Rogers	309	6	8
Redding	282	12	0
Jervis (accepted)	279	13	0

TENDERS

For the erection of a Scotch Presbyterian Church, St. John's Wood; Mr. H. Mawley, architect.

John Morris	£2,397
Wm. Patience	2,279
Jas. Morris	2,269
J. and C. I'Anson	1,895
Geo. Mansfield and Son	1,875

For St. James's Baths and Washhouses, Westminster: Mr. P. P. Baly, engineer.

Jeffery	£8,870
Paul	8,700
Walker and Semper	8,660
Pollock and M'Lennan	8,488
Higgs	8,370
Piper	8,237
Wimland and Holland	8,194
Hayward and Nixon	8,080
Curtis	7,994
H. W. Cooper	7,923
Sanders and Woolcott	7,892
Myers	7,847
T. Burton	7,839
Trego	7,267

For Chertsey Union Workhouse additions; Mr. John Billing, architect.

	No. 1. Building.			No. 2. Drainage.		
Seal and Jackson, Chelsea	£1,876	0	0	£335	0	0
Cooper and Davis, Southwark	1,750	0	0	475	0	0
Pollard and Symonds, Guildford	1,697	0	0	547	0	0
Richards, Paddington	1,658	8	0	332	0	0
H. and C. Clark, Reading	1,650	0	0	413	0	0
James Loe, Guildford	1,643	14	8	493	10	2
William Kidner, Chertsey	1,640	0	0	400	0	0
James Davis, Camberwell	1,592	0	0	398	0	0
Thomas Lucas, Chertsey	1,590	0	0	385	0	0
Oades and Son, Egham	1,586	0	0	332	0	0*
— Ellis Guildford	1,544	0	0	469	15	0
James Smith, Guildford	1,576	15	0	490	11	0
Joseph Taylor, Sudbury	1,473	0	0	420	0	0
Henry Boxall, Guildford	1,447	0	0	498	0	0
Robert Hunt, Chertsey	1,435	0	0*			

* Accepted.

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

Held during the ensuing week.

MONDAY, June 24.—Institute of Architects, 8 p.m.
FRIDAY, June 28.—Architectural Association, 8 p.m.

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